

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5 and 9, which are independent, are hereby amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification, specifically at page 12 and Figure 2.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2002/0021364 to Asada et al. (hereinafter, merely "Asada") and Japanese Patent No. JP11-177930 to Tonomura (hereinafter, merely "Tonomura").

Claims 2-4 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Asada in view of Tonomura and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,268,875 to Morio et al. (hereinafter, merely "Morio").

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"...wherein the frame addition processing means adds a predetermined number of frames to the image data,

wherein the frame addition processing means varies the frame rates of the image signal to any integer by adding frames to the image data and by changing an image pick-up frame rate,

wherein if it is instructed to reproduce the image signal recorded in the signal-recording-and-reproducing means during recording of the image signal, the control means causes the signal-recording-and-reproducing device to reproduce the recorded image signal at a reproduction frame rate and the control means causes the monitor image signal generation means to generate the monitor image signal that displays simultaneously on one screen a picked-up image based on the image signal generated by the image signal generation means and a reproduced image based on the image signal reproduced by the signal-recording-and-reproducing device." (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicant, Tonomura relates to a video camera and its control method. An image signal generated by an imager is recorded by a recording and reproducing section. Time expansion or compression of the image signal is conducted.

Applicant submits that Asada and Tonomura, taken either alone or in combination fail to disclose or teach the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, nothing is found that discloses or teaches:

1.) “wherein the frame addition processing means adds a predetermined number of frames to the image data”, “wherein the frame addition processing means varies the frame rates of the image signal to any integer by adding frames to the image data and by changing an image pick-up frame rate”; and

2.) “wherein ...the control means causes the signal-recording-and-reproducing device ...that displays simultaneously on one screen a picked-up image based on the image signal generated by the image signal generation means and a reproduced image based on the image signal reproduced by the signal-recording-and-reproducing device”;

both as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar those above, claims 5 and 9 are also patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Similarly, because Applicant maintains that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicant reserves the right to address such comments.

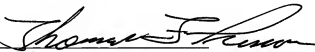
CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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